

Delude report of Hastinapur excavation published in Ancient India no 10 and 11

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Abstract :

In 1950-52, some of the areas of Hastinapur was excavated by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) under the leadership of Dr. B.B. Lal and the report of excavation was published in Ancient India no 10 and 11. Through this excavation many secrets about Hastinapur were open but many secrets were inhumated. By excavation, it was understood that many times civilization were born in Hastinapur and many times those civilization were come to an end. There are many defects in the report which was published in Ancient India. Many of the treasures that have existed for many years have not been mentioned in this report, but now it is very difficult to say why this happened.

Keywords: Ancient India, ASI, Jayanti Mata Shakti Peeth, Karna Ghat Mandir, Budhi Ganga

Introduction:

Hastinapur is situated on the elevation 29°9'; 78°3' in tehsil Mawana. It is a town in the Doab region of Uttar Pradesh in India approximately 37 km from district headquarter Meerut and 110 km north-east of Delhi on National Highway 119. The map of Hastinapur and their villages are shown in Fig 1. According to the official data of district authorities, Hastinapur is divided into two parts one is Hastinapur *Kaurwan* and other is Hastinapur *Pandwan* [1]. There are many antiquities found in Hastinapur which are of Mahabharata fame or their names related Mahabharata personage that is Pandeeshwar Mahadev Mandir, Draupdi Ghat, Karna Mandir/Karna Ghat, Budhi Ganga and Pandav Tila/ Ulta Khera Tila [1].

But there are some controversies arise by the Hastinapur excavation report published in Ancient India No 10 & 11 [2], a bulletin of Archaeological Survey of India. It is not that I am rejecting the full report published by Archaeological Survey of India, but am trying to bring some lapses in front of the world. There is something that has prevented Hastinapur from coming in front of the world not talking about the curse of Draupdi. Nobody has done any work in the welfare of Hastinapur instead this just one wrong thing was made popular in society that there is a curse of Draupadi on Hastinapur. Instead of giving direction to society, the direction of society has changed by making the fake thing original. There is lack of will for Hastinapur.

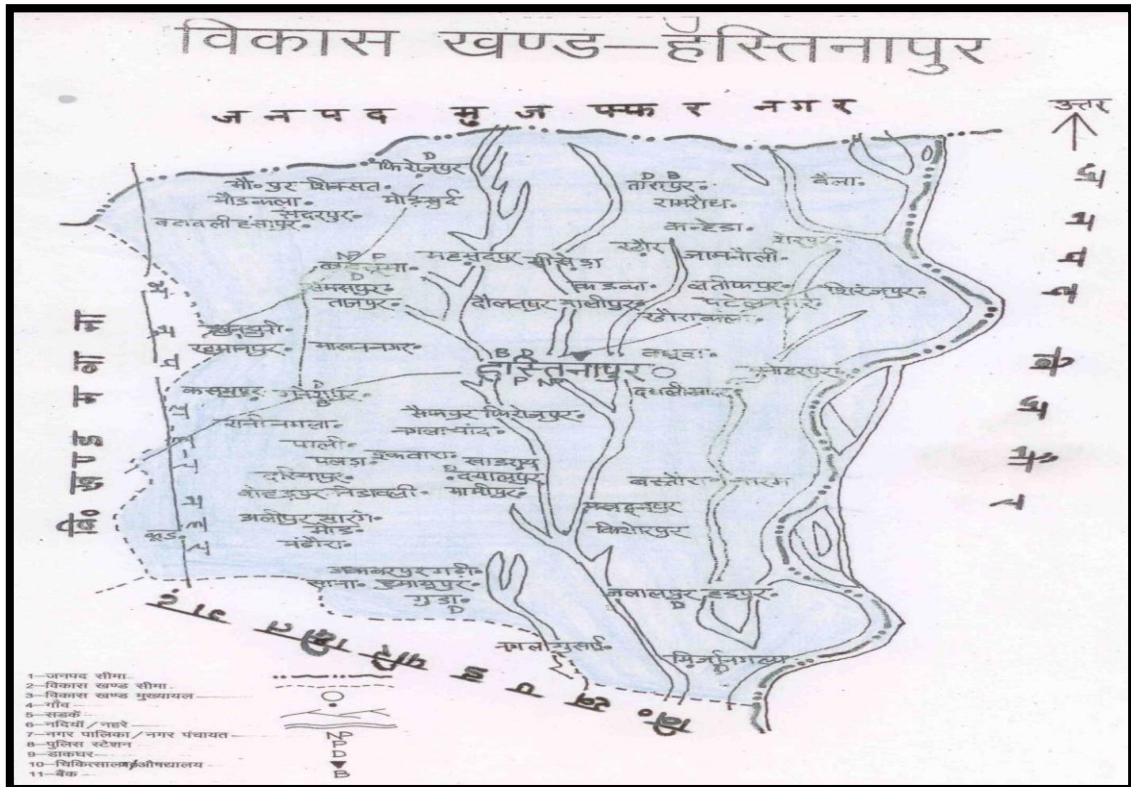


Fig 1 Map of Hastinapur [Map Courtesy : www.meerut.nic.in]

In this research paper, only the heritage is shown which was present in Hastinapur during the excavation but was not shown in the report.

The following Mahabharata patrimony, which is either mentioned in the report in another way or some are not mentioned. Some legacies are of such, that the Archeological Survey of India is unaware of itself in case of Hastinapur.

Karna Ghat Mandir

According to some researches, this temple is supposed to be built in later Mughals- Maratha- Early British Period [3]. During 18th century, Hastinapur was ruled by the Gurjar Raja Nain Singh, he built/renovate some temples in Hastinapur [1] and in Parikshitgarh, the fort of King Parikshit (grandson of Ajun) was also restored by Raja Nain Singh [4]. But according to Ancient India No 10 and 11, there are no structural remains at this site. If temple was built on Karna Ghat near *Burhganga* in 18th century then why any construction was rejected by Archaeological Survey of India in their bulletin Ancient India.



Fig 2 Karna Mandir

Jayanti Mata Shakti Peeth

According to the beliefs of the local people Mata Sati's left thigh was fallen in Hastinapur, after which the place was named as Jayanti Mata *Shakti Peeth*. Now if we believe in scriptures and mythologies, we will find the chronicle of the relinquishment of Mother Sati at their father Raja Daksha house was happened thousands of years before the Mahabharata period or Dwapar Yug. One thing which I does not understand here that if there was a *Shakti Peeth* here, then how the castle was built in the Dwapar Era.

Here in some way, *Shakti Peeth* story is not clear as many websites are investigated on the internet but there is no record of Shakti Peeth in Hastinapur [7][8]. Even after discovering, it is not certified that there has been any Shakti Peeth in Hastinapur. If we focus the flex boards and other material present on the Jayanti Mata Shakti Peeth at Ulta Khera Tila we found that this Shakti Peeth was very ancient. There are some boards placed by some authorities of Shakti Peeth, which creates misbelief, on one board, it has been written that the portion of left thigh of Mother Sati was fallen and on second board said that the portion of right thigh was fallen (Refer Fig 3). It is impossible to say that why is it so messed with faith. Now we can't forgot to quote the book from which misconception was started in which *Siddha Peeth* is mentioned rather than *Shakti Peeth* [Refer Fig 4]. According to the scriptures, *Shakti Peeth* are 51 in number and these are the places where various parts of the body of Mother Sati fell, whereas *Siddha's Peeth* are 108 in number .My faith is manifest in my scriptures and I believe in God too, but it does not mean that anybody in the society is misusing the thing and we keep watching them.

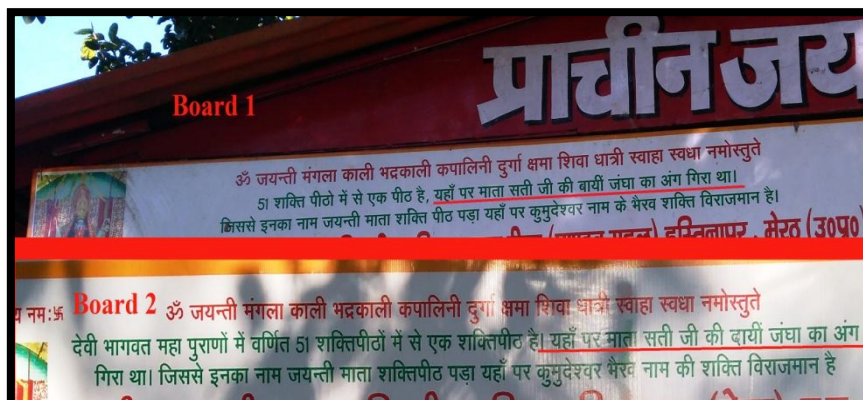


Fig 3 : Flex Board present on Jayanti Mata Shakti Peeth at Ulta Khara Teela, Hastinapur which create confusion

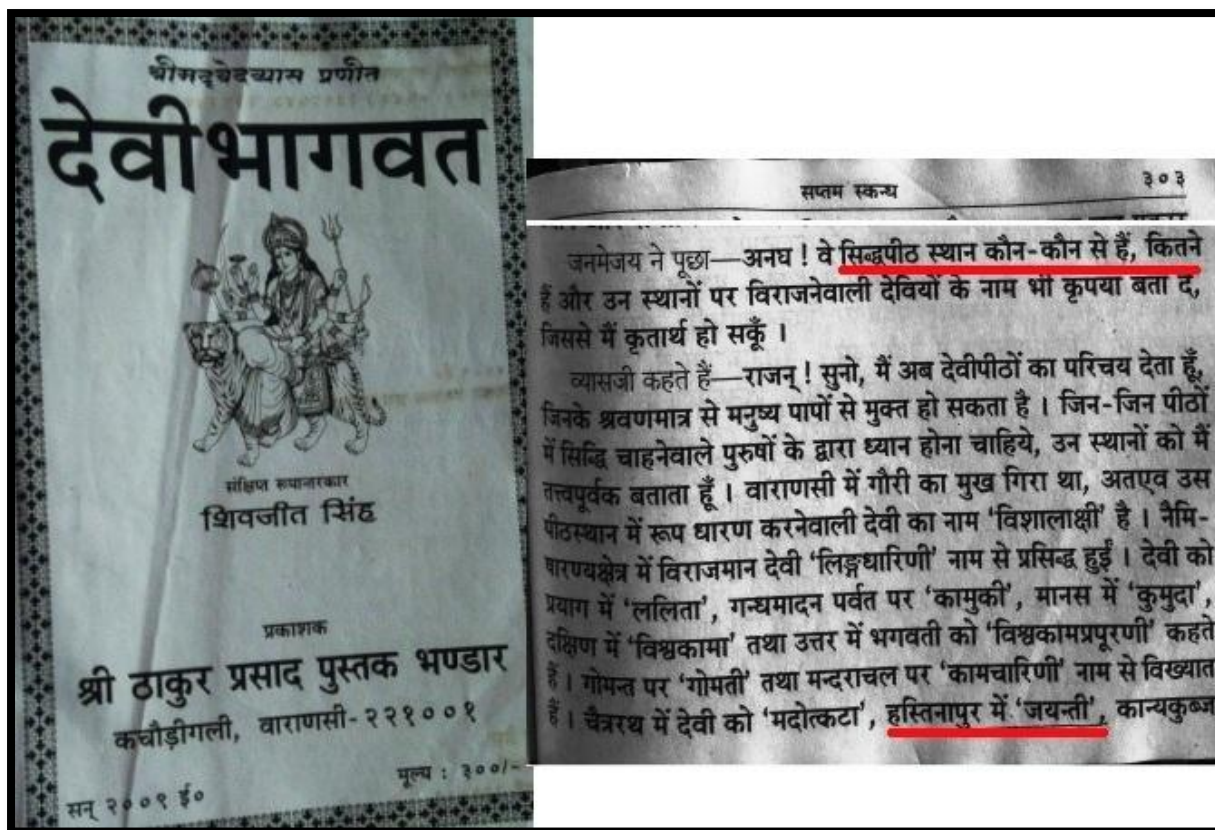


Fig 4: Photographic Image of front page of Devibhagwad and the page on which Siddha Peeth is mentioned.

The faith of the people is so strong, many fairs (Refer Fig 5) is also organized on the festivals or special days like Shivaratri, Navratri etc. It is the faith of people who has made such a big lie true. There is no proof of *Shakti Peeth* in Hastinapur, but it is absolutely confirmed that at some time there was a *Siddha Peeth* at Hastinapur.

From above text, One thing is clear that *Siddha Peeth* was present in Hastinapur then why the Archaeological Survey of India did not mentioned in Ancient India no 10 and 11.

According to the report of excavation done in year 1950-52 in Hastinapur, published in Ancient India there was no *Siddha Peeth* at that time on the Ulta Khera Tila.



Fig 5: Fare was organized on the occasion of Shivaratri (2018) on Jayanti Mata Shakti Peeth Grave (Peer)

On the Ulta Khera Mound/Pandav Tila, a *Peer* is also seen (Refer Fig 6). The Archaeological Survey of India did not even clarify its stand on this *Peer*. According to the foundation stone placed on this *Peer/Mazar*, it was rebuilt on March 15, 2000 (Refer Fig 6). While the report of excavation done in Hastinapur in 1950-1952 published in Ancient India, did not show any *Peer/Mazar* at that time on this mound. In response to a question asked to Archeological Survey of India, Agra Circle through Centralized Public Grievance Redress and Monitoring System on September 4, 2017 wrote the presence of *Peer* on the upside of Ulta Khera Tila is from 15-16 century (Refer Fig 9).

On the contrary, the Archaeological Survey of India had forgotten to show this *Peer* even he show the wall of Medieval Period (Ref. Fig 7) (Refer Fig 8). The *Peer* is situated on/near this wall.



Fig 6: Grave/Peer situated on Ulta Khera Tila above or near the wall of Medieval Period. The foundation stone on the Peer reflects the date on which this Peer was rebuilt.




Fig 7: The wall of Medieval Period situated on Ulta Khera Tila Hastinapur which was made up of Lakhori Bricks




Fig 8: Peer on/adjacent the wall of Medieval Period





Government Of India
Ministry Of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions
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Grievance Status for registration number : DCLTR/E/2017/00552

Grievance Concerns To	
Name Of Complainant	PRIYANK BHARATI
Date of Receipt	04/09/2017
Received By Ministry/Department	Culture
Grievance Description	सेवा में, प्रधानमंत्री जी भारत सरकार, भारत विषय : ग्रीवांस पर नहीं देता भारतीय पुरातत्व सर्वेक्षण सही जानकारी महोदय मैं पिछले कुछ महीनों से भारतीय पुरातत्व सर्वेक्षण को पत्र लिख कर हस्तिनापुर से सम्बंधित जानकारी मांग रहा हूँ, सुचना के अधिकार से भी कुछ सवालों के जवाब चाहे पर नहीं दिए गए। महोदय आखिर हस्तिनापुर पर बेरुखी का कारण क्या है। मैंने ग्रीवांस (DCLTR/E/2017/00469) पर हस्तिनापुर स्थित बूढ़ी गंगा के बारे में जानकारी चाही तो जवाब दिया गया कि उत्खनन के दौरान वहाँ कोई नदी मौजूद नहीं थी। पर महोदय उत्तर प्रदेश राजस्व अभिलेखों के अनुसार यह बूढ़ी गंगा महाभारतकाल से लेकर आज तक मौजूद है फिर भारतीय पुरातत्व सर्वेक्षण ने गलत जवाब क्यों दिया इससे पता लगता है कि भारतीय पुरातत्व सर्वेक्षण हस्तिनापुर को लेकर कितना संजोदा है। अगर ग्रीवांस पर गलत जवाब दिए जा रहे हैं तो बंद कर देना चाहिए ऐसा ग्रीवांस। न तो भारतीय पुरातत्व सर्वेक्षण दोबारा उत्खनन करने को तैयार न ही अवैध निर्माण ही खत्म करने को तैयार। हस्तिनापुर स्थित उल्टा खेरा टीला तंत्र मन्त्र का अड्डा बन चुका है यहाँ एक पीर है जिस पर तंत्र होते हैं महोदय कृपा कर इस मामले में भारत सरकार को दखल अंदाजी करनी चाहिए नहीं तो भारतीय पुरातत्व सर्वेक्षण खत्म कर देगा महाभारतकालीन हस्तिनापुर का वजूद। धन्यवाद आपका, दिनांक : 04/09/2017 असिस्टेंट प्रोफेसर प्रियंक भारती
Current Status	Case closed
Date of Action	24/10/2017
Remarks	महोदय, हस्तिनापुर (उल्टाखेड़ा) एक पुरातात्विक स्थल है, जहाँ उत्खनन द्वारा गैरिक मृदुभांड परंपरा, चित्रित घुसर मृदुभांड, कृष्ण मार्जित पात्र परंपरा एवं पावती वाखंडों के अवशेष प्राप्त होने का वर्णन है, उल्टा खेरा पर पीर की उपस्थिति १५-१६ वीं शताब्दी से है, और उसपर हो रहे अतिक्रमण या अवैध निर्माण पर विधि सम्मत कार्यवाही विभाग द्वारा की जा रही है SA, ASI, Agra Circle, Agra

Fig 9: Question asked to Archaeological Survey of India, Agra Circle through Centralized Public Grievance Redress and Monitoring System on September 4, 2017.

The thing about coincidence is that this *Peer* is located near this wall and this wall is mentioned in Ancient India but *Peer* was not mentioned. If the construction of this *Peer* is done after declaring the site as Protected site under Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958 [5] as amended by Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains (Amendment and Validation) Act, 2010 [6] (According to this Act the area of 200 metre, from the limits of prohibited area of this monument, has been declared to be the Regulated Area, where construction is permitted only after prior approval granted in accordance with the provision of the Act. The violation of the Act, in relation to construction in prohibited area, or construction without prior approval in the regulated area is punishable with imprisonment extendable to 2 years or fine of 1 lakh or both [6]) then why Archaeological Survey of India doesn't take any legal action against this construction. If that *Peer* was built in 15th-16th century then why it was not mentioned in Ancient India.



Budhi Ganga or Burh Ganga



Fig 10 : View of Budhi Ganga at Hastinapur (Aug, 2018).

Before going in deep, first of all I will write that what the Budhi Ganga is? The oldest route (ravine) of the Ganges is known as Budhi Ganga (Refer Fig 10) [1]. This Budhi Ganga in Hastinapur is the only witness who saw the Mahabharata's World War script being formed and Pandavas and Kauravas playing on their shores. According to Vedvyasa's Mahabharata, in childhood Kauravas and Pandavas played together on this Gangetic coast [1].

A lot has been written about the Budhi Ganga in the Gazetteer of 1904 [4] and 1965[9]. I am going to present some of the original text (without any change) of these gazetteers here.

According to Meerut, A Gazetteer [4],

"The easternmost tract is the well-known low khadir land of Ganges valley. It is bounded on the west by the high cliff under which for three-fourths of its length flows the Burhganga, an oled bed of the Ganges which is connected with the main stream by numerous watercourses".

On page 17 of Gazetteer [4] of year 1904, the details and route of Burh Ganga (Budhi Ganga) was mentioned:-

The Burhganga, which forms so marked a feature of the khadir, is a sluggish, irregular stream, which in many places rather resembles a chain of swamps than a river. It enters the district from Muzaffarnagar at the village of Firozpur and flows southwards into pargana Garhmuktesar, when it joins the Ganges. Its distance from the high bank which separates the khadir from the uplands ranges from a few yards to a quarter of a mile. Its depth varies considerably in the hot weather when it is quite dry in places, but it always holds water in some of its larger swamps, which are generally marshy, reed- covered jhils, with patches of open water. Opposite Hastinapur, a series of jhils form with the Burhganga a large islands after the rains.

On Page 243 [4] under the head of Hastinapur pargana, Tehsil Mawana it was clearly mentioned that:



The main feature of the eastern half of the pargana (Hastinapur) is the river Ganges, the bed of which is separated from the upland by a steep bank which is broken by series of intricate ravines at the foot of which throughout their length lies the swampy channel of the Burhganga.

In year 1965, the Uttar Pradesh district Gazetteer Meerut gave a remarkable and tremendous importance of Burh Ganga on page 7:-

This is a small tributary of the Ganga and is a fluctuating stream entering the district from Muzaffarnagar at the village of Firozpur Saifpur. Its name (meaning 'old Ganga') indicates that it flows in a which the Ganga once flowed. According to statement in Timur's memoirs, he camped on the banks of the Ganga at Firozpur. If this place is identical with the Firozpur Saifpur mentioned above, then either the memoirs mistook the Burhganga for the Ganga or the Ganga till then flowed in the course now occupied by the Burhganga (the implication being that the latter come into existence only after 1398-99). After entering the district the Burhganga flows southwards into pagana Garhmukteshwar where it joins the Ganga. At many places it resembles a chain of swamps, its distance from the high bank (which separates the khadar from the uplands) being a furlong on an average. In the hot weather it is dry in places and though its depth varies considerably, some of its larger swamps always hold water and rushes, used for making matting and reeds for making wickerworks chains are found in them in abundance. It is a sluggish and irregular stream and is not of much use on the whole.

On page 119 [9] it was mentioned that

The river (Ganga) constantly threatens to break through the middle khadar in heavy floods and to tear through the tract drained by the Budhi Ganga

On page 339 [9], it was written that

Draupdi ghat on the bank of Burhganga, is a bathing ghat where people flock in large numbers on bathing festivals.

The British Government (when India did not attain Independence) in 1904 wrote remarkable history and complete route of Burh Ganga/Budhi Ganga. But when India got Independence some of the facts was puddle, the intention of the Archaeological Survey of India is not clear about the Budhi Ganga. In the report of Ancient India 10 and 11 published by Archaeological Survey of India, Budhi Ganga was mentioned on page 11:-

"On the bank of Budhi Ganga two localities are known respectively as Draupdi Ghat and Karna Ghat (bathing places associated with Draupdi and Karna) "

On opposite (opposite of page 11, on plate V) of this detail, map of Budhi Ganga (in Hastinapura (Ancient Mounds), Meerut District, UP, 1951) was also given. But when I asked question (**Refer Fig 11**) to Archaeological Survey of India, Agra Circle through Centralized Public Grievance Redress and Monitoring System on August 26, 2017 they (ASI) wrote that there is no Budhi Ganga was present at the time of excavation in Hastinapur during 1950-52. Regardless of this level of negligence, the Archaeological Survey of India says that there is no need for excavation again



(Refer Fig 12). This fact is that which can be seen with the naked eyes, but ASI still misguide about the facts/truths.




 <p>Government of India Ministry Of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions Department Of Administrative Reforms & Public Grievances Centralized Public Grievance Redress And Monitoring System (CPGRAMS)</p>		
Grievance Status for registration number : DCLTR/E/2017/00469		
Grievance Concerns To		
Name Of Complainant	PRIYANK BHARATI	
Date of Receipt	26/07/2017	
Received By Ministry/Department	Culture	
Grievance Description	<p>सेवा में, मा० नरेंद्र मोदी जी, प्रधानमंत्री, भारत सरकार, भारत विषय : महाभारतकालीन हस्तिनापुर में बूढ़ी गंगा के बारे में सुचना प्रदान करे महोदय, महाभारत के समय में हस्तिनापुर में बूढ़ी गंगा हुआ करती थी जो कि पांडव टीले के नजदीक से होकर बहती थी पर आज ये बूढ़ी गंगा कहाँ है किसी को नहीं पता अतः महोदय मुझे बूढ़ी गंगा कि पूरी जानकारी प्रदान करे एवं सरकार यह बताए कि बूढ़ी गंगा के लिए सरकार ने क्या कदम उठाए भारतीय पुरातत्व सर्वेक्षण ने क्यों इसका अस्तित्व खत्म किया और क्यों इसके बारे में कोई जानकारी उपलब्ध नहीं है अतः महोदय भारत सरकार एवं भारतीय पुरातत्व सर्वेक्षण हस्तिनापुर की बूढ़ी गंगा के बारे में बेरुखी का कारण बताए और आज यह बूढ़ी गंगा कहाँ है यह भी बताने की कृपा करे धन्यवाद आपका असिस्टेंट प्रोफेसर प्रियंक भारती संस्थापक एवं अध्यक्ष, नेचुरल साइंसेज ट्रस्ट.</p>	
Grievance Document		
Current Status	Case closed	
Date of Action	04/09/2017	
Remarks	<p>महोदय, आपको अवगत कराना है कि इस स्थल पर 1951-1952 में उत्खनन कार्य किया गया था जिसमें यहाँ प्राचीन काल में नदी तट होने की सम्भावना व्यक्त की गई थी किन्तु उत्खनन के समय वहाँ कोई नदी नहीं थी. SA, ASI, Agra Mrs. Usha Sharma IAS, Director General</p>	

Fig 11: Question Asked to Ministry of Culture which was forwarded to Archaeological Survey of India, Agra Circle

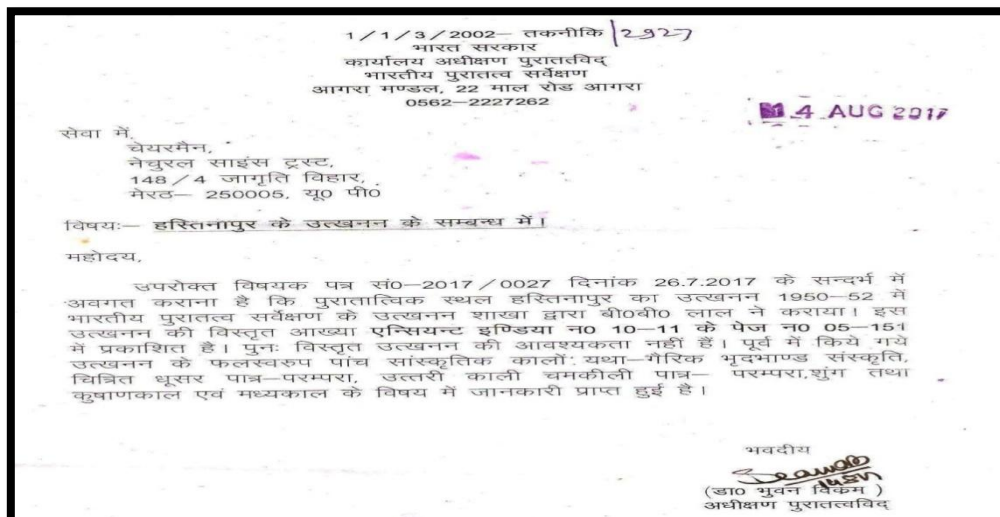


Fig 12 : Scanned copy of letter received from ASI, Agra in which they deny from further excavation in Hastinapur.



Conclusion:

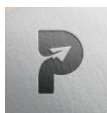
We did not find the evidence of Ramayana, but yes, if our condition is the same then that day is not far when the Mahabharata evidence will also go away from our hands. As soon as India was liberated from the chains of slavery in 1947, finding evidence of Mahabharata, Government of India stamped upon. When in 1950-52, the work of finding the evidence of great India "Mahabharata" started from Hastinapura was given to the Dr. B. B. Lal. According to the report of Ancient India, the task of excavation started from the month of November, 1950 and till March 1952 which lasted 5 months. It was shown in the report that the Dr. B.B.Lal had to go out of India for any work (which and what work it was not written). Excavation work in Hastinapur was started when he reached India. For the second time the task of excavation started in late 1951 and lasted till 1952, how long excavation work took place in 1952, it was not written in the report. Along with Hastinapur, 42 other places were also explored, mainly Baranwa, Ahichchhatra, Baghpat, Bairat, Indrapat, Kausambi, Muzaffarnagar, Saini etc. From all places the search for Mahabharata's evidence was going on extremes, the period of Mahabharata was determined.

We understood the whole report of Ancient India from page 5 to 150 but when the 151 page is viewed then the whole report becomes a question mark. Dr. B.B. Lal concluded the whole report in the last paragraph of page 151 and he wrote that *"May it, however, be emphasized that the evidence is entirely circumstantial and until and unless positive ethnographic and epigraphic proofs are obtained to substantiate the conclusion they cannot be considered as provisional?"* This entire report of Ancient India itself says it is mandatory to have excavation at least a Period 1 and Period 2. On other side one private book was written by Dr. B.B. Lal named "Historicity of the Mahabharata Evidence of Literature, Art and Archeology", he wrote that *"it would thus be seen that most of the important personage of Mahabharata namely Krishna, Arjun, Duryodhana, Parikshit and Janmejaya, find mention in text which are quite independent of the Mahabharata. This should leave no doubt that these are indeed historical figures and not figments of somebody's imagination."*

However, there are many other drawbacks in this report, but initially in this research paper those places have taken which were either not written or ignored or neglected by Archaeological Survey of India during the excavation, and if later it was asked about it, then it was known that these places were also present in the past. The Hastinapur of Mahabharata fame has always given birth to new questions and the question is not even answered till today.

At the time of excavation in Hastinapur, there are series of mounds existed but the excavation was done only on Ulta Khera Tila and others mounds are omitted. What was the reason behind that excavation was done only on one mound? While there is also a very important mound at a distance of about one kilometer from Jambudeep (Hastinapur), which is locally known as *Barhkhamba*. Some evidences of the royal palace are still be there but behind that what was the intention of ASI, we cannot say. (we will discuss more details of this *Barhkhamba* in another upcoming paper).

Now the question is whether this report should be trusted or not. If believed, then on the Ulta Khera mound, it is imperative to question on the Peer, Sidha Peeth and Karna Temple near Budhi Ganga and if all this was present then this whole report is bound to be covered by as many as questions. If all the important structures on this site can be left out, then it may be possible that important facts have been omitted from this report. If the construction on the mound was after excavation, then why did the Archaeological Survey of India not take action till date? The Archaeological Survey of India, Agra Circle denied the presence Budhi Ganga at the time of



excavation on the Centralized Public Grievance Redress and Monitoring System. Centralized Public Grievance Redress and Monitoring System is also in the vicinity of the question.

If incorrect information is given on this, then such portals are not justified. Initially, I have no hesitation in saying that some misconceptions about Mahabharata have been made by the Archaeological Survey of India itself.

In the end I would just like to say that governments should come forward about Hastinapur, think about it once again. Hastinapur is forgetting its existence, it should be developed once again, and its existence will be saved.

Acknowledgement:

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